Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original): Method for identifying a subject at risk of developing hypertensive end organ damage, comprising:

(a) obtaining a biological sample of said subject;

(b) determining the level, of at least one non myocytical marker in said sample;

(c) comparing the level of said marker to a standard level; and

(d) determining whether the level of the marker is indicative of a risk. For developing hypertensive end organ damage.

2. (Currently amended): ~~Method as claimed in claim 1,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a plasma sample derived from peripheral blood.

3. (Currently amended): ~~Method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the non-myocytical marker is a protein.

4. (Currently amended): ~~Method as claimed in claim 3,~~ The method of claim 3, wherein the non-myocytical marker is galectin-3.

5. (Currently amended): ~~Method as claimed in claim 3,~~ The method of claim 3, wherein the non-myocytical marker is thrombospondin-2.

6. (Currently amended): ~~Method as claimed in any of the claims 1-5,~~ The method of claim 1, wherein the level of the marker is measured by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).

7. (Original): Use of one or more non-myocytal markers for identifying a subject at risk of developing congestive heart failure.

8. (Original): Use as claimed in claim 7, wherein the marker is a protein.

9. (Original): Use as claimed-in claim 8, wherein the protein is galectin-3.

10. (Original): Use as claimed in claim 8, wherein the protein is thrombospondin-2.

11. (Original): Use of galectin-3 and/or modulators thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of hypertensive end organ damage.

12. (Original): Use of thrombospondin-2 and/or modulators thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and/or treatment of hypertensive end organ damage.

13. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a plasma sample derived from peripheral blood and wherein the non-myocytical marker is a protein.

14. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a plasma sample derived from peripheral blood and wherein the level of the marker is measured by ELISA.

15. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the non-myocytical marker is a protein and wherein the level of the protein is measured by ELISA.

16. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the non-myocytical marker is galectin-3 and wherein the level of the galectin-3 is measured by ELISA.

17. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the non-myocytical marker is thrombospondin-2 and wherein the level of the thrombospondin-2 is measured by ELISA.

18. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the non-myocytical marker comprises galectin-3, thrombospondin-2, or combinations thereof, and wherein the level of the marker is measured by ELISA.

19. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a plasma sample derived from peripheral blood, wherein the non-myocytical marker is a protein and wherein the level of the marker is measured by ELISA.

20. (New): The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a plasma sample derived from peripheral blood, wherein the non-myocytical marker is a protein, galectin-3, thrombospondin-2, or combinations thereof, and wherein the level of the marker is measured by ELISA.